



Written testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is William Bailey, retired Chief of Police. I'm from Oxford CT, but my 30-year career and dedication is to Bridgeport, CT. I'm asking you to support S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut because it will become a true effort and message as to the Brown vs Board of Education Supreme court ruling, equal education for ALL children. With all due respect; there can be no justification for allowing mostly the children of color in being denied what ALL children should have; a fair and equitable education. Please allow for an equitable distribution of State and Federal funds to level the playing field, and especially in providing those millions of dollars to schools that serve Black, Brown, and low-income students.

- Make funding more equitable by reflecting the learning needs of English language learners and children in communities with concentrated poverty.
- Fund all public schools through a needs-based formula that includes magnets, charters, and vocational-technical schools without taking money away from traditional schools.
- Eliminate the phase-in and fully fund ECS. Under current law, a second grader will be in high school before they receive their full funding.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

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